

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SP-02 ICA-20 AID-05 EB-08  
NSC-05 SS-15 STR-07 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00  
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/126 W

-----061429 110132Z /61

R 101732Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6001  
INFO AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

UNCLAS LONDON 07390

E.O.11652: N/A  
TAGS: ETRD, UK, SF  
SUBJECT: UK - SOUTH AFRICAN TRADE

1. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS DATED JOHANNESBURG, BRITAIN'S RELATIVE IMPORTANCE AS A TRADING PARTNER WITH SOUTH AFRICA IS DECLINING. WHILE MAINTAINING ITS POSITION AS THE SINGLE LARGEST EXPORT MARKET FOR SOUTH AFRICAN GOODS, THE UK DECLINED IN 1977 TO SOUTH AFRICA'S THIRD LARGEST SUPPLIER -- FROM FIRST POSITION IN 1975.

2. ACCORDING TO FIGURES RECENTLY PUBLISHED BY ITS DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE, SOUTH AFRICA IMPORTED GOODS WORTH R844.7 MILLION FROM BRITAIN IN 1977, APPROXIMATELY 16.4 PERCENT OF TOTAL IMPORTS (ALL FIGURES EXCLUDE GOLD BULLION, ARMS AND OIL). THIS REPRESENTS A DECLINE OF R185 MILLION FROM THE 1976 FIGURE.

3. SOUTH AFRICAN EXPORTS TO THE UK IN 1977 TOTLED R1.3 BILLION, UP FROM R1 BILLION IN 1976, AND CONSTITUTED NEARLY 23 PERCENT OF SOUTH AFRICAN GROSS EXPORT EARNINGS.

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4. BRITAIN'S DECLINING RELATIVE IMPORTANCE AS A SOUTH AFRICAN TRADING PARTNER IS ALSO ILLUSTRATED BY THE FACT THAT IN 1970, IMPORTS FROM THE UK WERE 22 PERCENT OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN TOTAL, WHILE THE PROPORTION OF EXPORTS TO THE UK WAS APPROXIMATELY 29 PERCENT.

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TRADE, FOREIGN MARKETS, REPORTS, INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENTS  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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